many for the Inspector, a responsible and reliable head constable should be entrusted with the enquiry. A circular should be issued to the effect that low subordinates should not conduct such enquiry on any account whatever. He then stated that the Government should pay attention to, and take action on, articles published in newspapers about policemen. The people should also be given an opportunity to lodge complaints against police officers without being obliged to take the sanction of the Government. Sometimes respectable persons and at other times innocent people fell a prey to the cruel treatment of police officers. The Member added that deserving constables should be encouraged and their pay improved.

Turning to the Department of Industries, the Member suggested the publication of a report detailing the activities of the department since it came under the control of Mr. Chacko and also enumerated the industrial possibilities of the State. He suggested that an expert from Madras should be got down with a view to advise the Department about the industrial possibilities of the State.

As regards the Excise Department, the Member observed that the sale of toddy should be brought down. The Member referred to the anomaly involved in combining in the same department the work of diminishing the sale of toddy, opium, etc., and of protecting the excise revenue. He therefore thought that the collection of excise revenue should rest with the Revenue Department.

The Canal Department was not working satisfactorily under the supervision of the P. W. D. authorities. It should be controlled by the Police Department and the assistance of the non-official public in scrutinising the strength of each boat in motion should be secured, giving them the right to make reports about the canal officers at fault when any boat contained more than the prescribed number of passengers.

96. Suggestions for improving the Public Service.

Mr. P. S. Mahomed (Member, Nominated) in the course of his representation drew attention to the practice of bribe-taking prevalent in Munsiffs' courts and pointed out, with special reference to the state of affairs in the Alleppey Munsiff's courts, how in the various stages in the execution of a decree, proceedings were unduly delayed by the clerks who could not be made to do the needful in time, without being bribed periodically. The Member pointed out that it would be a great convenience if orders were passed by the Munsiffs while they were sitting on the bench, and not in their private rooms, and stated that the procedure suggested by him would, while giving publicity to the orders themselves, considerably minimise the chances of the parties being forced to give bribes to the clerks concerned to know the nature of the orders passed by the Munsiffs in particular cases. He also suggested that it would be a great advantage if the Munsiffs themselves would, while passing orders, fix the time-limit within which a notice ought to be served or fix the period within which a warrant should be issued after orders had once been passed. The Member then lamented the manifold irregularities existing at present in the preparation of decrees, the actual time taken in the preparation of each decree varying with the readiness or reluctance evinced by the parties in paying up the bribes due, and remarked that much improvement might be effected in this direction by the Munsiffs issuing orders to the effect that the preparation of a decree should not be delayed beyond one month from the date of judgment. With regard to the issue of copies of records also the Member suggested that a similar procedure fixing a time limit of 15 days would be beneficial. Coming to the delay in the disposal of suits, the Member observed that such pendency could be avoided, if only the Munsiffs would be prompt in framing the issues of any particular case within one month from the date on which the statement was filed. As regards criminal courts, the Member suggested that Magistrates who were too old should be retired from service as early as possible.

The Member then alluded to the circumstances under which the Motor Bus Inspector was originally appointed and pointed out how it had become impossible for one man to cope with the present increased work. He also remarked how the

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present work of the Inspector, under the orders of three District Superintendents of Police, would easily lead to a conflict of duties, and suggested that the Inspector be given with a clerk for correspondence work.

Concerning the *Redeemer* accident, the Member stated that the accident could have been averted by the exercise of due care and caution on the part of the Police officers on the spot and that the accident was the outcome of a want of reasonable foresight on the part of the police officers concerned.

Finally, the Member made reference to the unsatisfactory way in which the present Village Panchayat Courts were worked, to the want of regular attendance on the part of the judges, and to the haphazard ways in which judgments were written. He suggested that an attendance register for the judges should be maintained in each office and that vacancies in judge's posts should be filled on the suggestion of the outgoing judges and not on the recommendations of the Dewan Peishkars, as was the case at present.

The Member said that a great portion of the revenue of the State was now being spent on the salaries of officers, and that, in the present conditions of Travancore, it was highly necessary to reduce that amount as far as possible. He made the following suggestions in that respect.

(1) Foreigners should not be entertained in the service. The policy advocated, he said, would reduce expenditure, as Travancoreans would be satisfied with much lower salaries than those required by outsiders.

(2) The number of unnecessary appointments should also be reduced as far as possible. The assistants of all officers came under that class. Their work could, he thought, be got done by clerks. In his view such appointments were necessitated by the incapacity or neglect of duty on the part of the chief officers. If the chief officers were incapable and could not work without assistants, they should at once be removed and able and more active men appointed in their places.

(3) Unnecessary appointments should not be created. People thought that many such appointments had recently been created, but the Member did not propose to point them out and displease any one.

(4) Persons possessing the minimum qualifications prescribed for the respective posts should alone be appointed to them. If a person having higher qualifications was appointed to a post, the pay for the post would have to be necessarily increased later on. The qualification fixed should depend upon the nature of the post.

The Member finally referred to corruption in the public service. The welfare of the people depended on the removal of such corruption. He said that the corruption prevailing in the Judicial Department had no limit, although most of the presiding officers, he admitted, were free from it. Among the civil courts, the corrupt practices in the Munsiff's courts were past endurance. If it was possible to stop such corruption, all the civil courts would be completely purified.

97. Public Service, with special reference to the undesirability (a) of recruiting foreigners, (b)of retaining those among them already in service who have already completed 55 years of age and (c) of granting extension of service to public servants after attaining pensionable age.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karta (Member, Shertallai taluk) said that the principle that should be kept in view by the Government in making appointments was not that all communities should be proportionately represented, but that all the different taluks should be equally or proportionately represented in the service. He said that the people of northern taluks were greatly at a disadvantage in getting into the public service. He suggested that, until the unrepresented taluks like Shertallai reached a satisfactory status of civilised life, the inhabitants of the taluks from which officials were now largely drawn should not be recruited to the service as far as possible.

He next observed that extension of service after 55 years of age should not be granted to any one at a time when the question of unemployment was being so keenly and seriously felt all over the State. He pointed out that, out of the 36 new teachers

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